

MORPETH BOROUGH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Senior Public Health Inspector

for the year

1968

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Morpeth.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you the report of the Medical Officer of Health and that of the Senior Public Health Inspector for the year 1968.

The first event of which mention must be made was the retirement on 31st March of Dr. McGregor, after 25 years of dedicated service to the local community as its Medical Officer of Health. Dr. McGregor knew her area and her people intimately with their many and varied problems, and the respect in which she was held by her colleagues in the public health field was shown in a presentation to her on her final day in harness.

With the retirement of Dr. McGregor in March, and the resignation of Mr. Ridley in May, the staff of the public health department was very much depleted in 1968. This situation continued until the end of the year, when an additional Public Health Inspector was appointed to commence duty in January 1969. Following the retirement of Dr. McGregor it was decided that an assistant Medical Officer of Health would not be appointed and this necessitated working in much closer association with the Public Health Inspectors than previously.

The population in the Borough increased in 1968 by 170 to 14,510. The number of births fell from 204 to 187, with a fall in the birth rate from 14.2 to 12.9 per 1,000 of the population - lower than the national figure of 16.9. The number of stillbirths increased by 1, giving a higher rate of 16, compared with 10 in 1967, and the national rate of 14.3. The infantile mortality rate fell in 1968 to 10.7 per 1,000 live births - it was 20 per 1,000 live births in 1967.

The number of deaths in the Borough increased from 184 to 224, giving a rise in the death rate from 12.8 in 1967 to 15.4 per 1,000 of the population in 1968. Deaths from malignant neoplasms increased markedly from 22 to 36, with an increased death rate from this cause from 1.53 in 1967, to 2.47 in 1968 - compared with the national rate of 2.316. A happier situation can be reported in the case of tuberculosis - no death occurred from any form of this disease. Deaths due to diseases of the heart and circulation, malignant neoplasms and vascular lesions of the central nervous system accounted for almost 75% of the total deaths.

No cases of infectious disease were notified during the first quarter of the year, but between the months of April and August, 59 cases of measles occurred and all except two of these were in the 1 - 9 age group. In May 1968 the campaign for the vaccination of susceptible children against measles came into operation. The number of Morpeth children who were immunised against this disease is not available, but 1096 children were vaccinated in the central area of Northumberland during the year. One would expect 1969 to be the biennial epidemic year for measles in the Borough and it will be interesting to note the effect of this campaign on the number of cases notified in the current year.

During the summer months of 1968, two small outbreaks of gastro-enteritis occurred in an infant school in the town. At the end of April a telephone call was received from the headteacher at the school, to report that a number of children were suffering from diarrhoea and this had been continuing for about a week. No member of staff was affected. The homes of several of the affected children were visited, and it was ascertained that the outbreak was probably due to a virus infection and was not sonne dysentery. Faecal specimens were sent to the laboratory for examination and the results confirmed that the outbreak was not caused by dysentery organisms but it was not found possible to isolate the suspected virus. The senior public health inspector gave advice to the school caretaker with regard to the cleansing and disinfection of the school toilets, and gave general advice in the school with regard to hygiene. This advice was willingly accepted, and the outbreak of infection subsided rapidly.

Early in July a second outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred in the same school, and cases of some dysentery were confirmed. Letters were distributed to the parents of all the children in the school, warning them of the occurrence of cases of dysentery and giving advice on the prevention of spread of the infection. The outbreak was confined to seven families. Four adults were affected and one, who was a food-handler, was kept away from work until he had had three consecutive negative faecal specimens.

Four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. On 31st May, information was received from the County Medical Officer that a patient from Morpeth had been admitted to hospital, suffering from a paralytic type of food poisoning after eating mussels bought in a shop in Newcastle on the previous day. A general practitioner telephoned later to say that he had been called to see a second case, suffering from similar symptoms, but the patient was not so ill as in the first case and was being nursed at home.

The first patient had bought 1lb. of mussels during the afternoon of 30th May. At 5.45.p.m. she had boiled half of them in water and had eaten them at about 6.p.m. One hour later, she took ill with paralytic symptoms, and was admitted to hospital at 10.p.m. All the uncooked mussels were collected on the morning of 31st May and were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The toxin of the plankton dinoflagellate was isolated from these mussels.

The second patient had consumed some mussels on the shop premises and was taken ill about one hour later, on her journey home to Morpeth.

These two cases were associated with an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in the Tyneside area at that time. The mussels had been collected from Holy Island, where the sea contained very large numbers of dinoflagellate. Sea-birds and fish had been affected by the toxin also. All premises in the Borough from which mussels were sold were contacted, to ensure that local mussels were withheld, and the public was warned by radio, television and the papers that it was dangerous to eat mussels gathered from the Northumbrian coast at that time. Further investigation of the toxicity of water filtering shell-fish was undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to prevent a recurrence of this type of food poisoning.

Two further cases of food poisoning were notified later in the year and both involved adult females, who had been infected outside the Borough. In the first case, the patient had taken ill while on holiday and her infection was found to be due to salmonella panama. No organism was isolated in the second case, which was undoubtedly due to an unidentified toxin. The patient had taken ill suffering from a sudden onset of severe vomiting within an hour of eating a meal in a cafe in an adjacent town. The Public Health Department in the town was contacted, and investigations were carried out there in an attempt to discover the source of the infection.

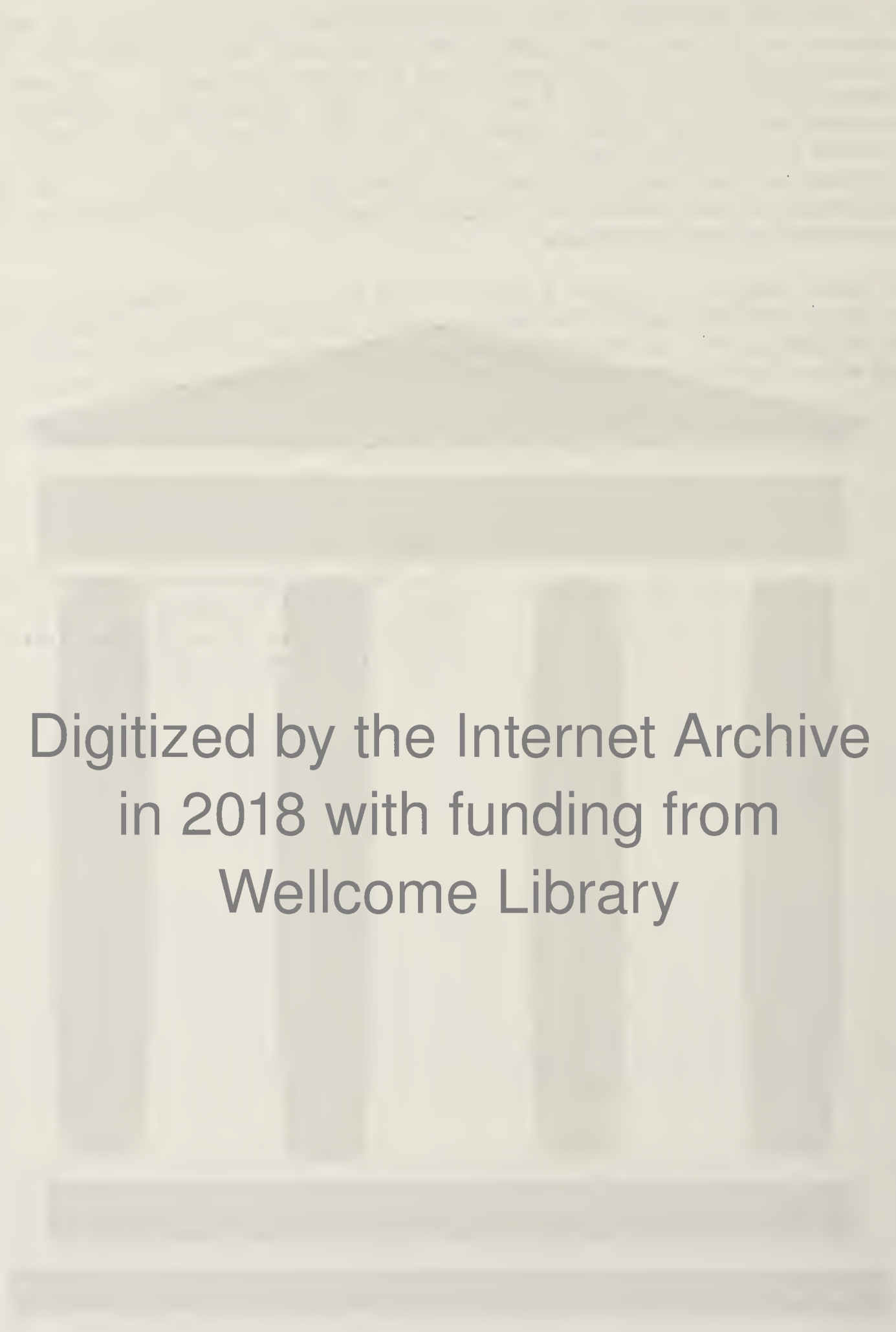
Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1968 - one in a young man who worked some distance away from Morpeth and who was willing for his colleagues at his place of employment to be told of his illness so that they could be advised to attend for a chest x-ray. The second case was a 15 year old girl whose work contacts were also x-rayed, although fortunately no further positive cases were discovered. A request was sent in the latter case, asking for the sympathetic consideration of the Housing Committee, with regard to the rehousing of this girl's family.

At the end of June, a complaint was received of a nuisance caused by mosquitoes, in the Fulbeck area of Morpeth. Lakes, a burn and water troughs in that district were searched and specimens of pupae and larvae were collected and sent off to the British Museum for identification. They were mostly culicine mosquitoes which could well bite man, and there were a few anopheles clariger meigen which bite man freely, after sunset, out of doors. The larvae of the anopheles clariger meigen can survive the winter even under ice, and while the Public Health Inspector can undertake the treatment of breeding grounds of mosquitoes, it would be of great value in minimising this nuisance if members of the public, who have troughs or water-containing receptacles on their premises, would see that these are emptied or, at least covered, to prevent them from becoming potential breeding grounds. Owners of ornamental lakes, pools etc. could do much to reduce or prevent these insects from breeding by the use of simple measures, information about which could be readily obtained from the Public Health Inspector.

In June 1968 the Public Health Sub-Committee made a decision to support the formation of a Home Safety Committee in Morpeth, and in September, the first official meeting of the Home Safety Committee was held. The members were enthusiastic and as their first project they organised a campaign to publicise the danger of eating seeds and berries collected from shrubs, trees etc. Later in the year a second campaign was organised, to draw the attention of the public to the danger of fire from Christmas decorations. The Council gave financial support to the Home Safety Committee to enable this important preventive work to be continued.

In concluding this report I should like to record my thanks for the loyal support of the Public Health Inspectors, the increased responsibility and volume of work undertaken by the Health Department Clerk and the consideration and interest shown by members of the Council, during the year under review.

I am,
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,
K. Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. McFREGOR M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Retired 31st March, 1968
Assistant Medical Officer Medical Officer of Health from 1st April, 1968	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	J.G. SIMPSON, M.A.P.H.I.
Assistant Public Health Inspector	R. RIDLEY M.A.P.H.I. Resigned 14th October, 1968.
Offices of the Medical Officer	156, Woodhorn Road, Ashington.
Clerk to the Medical Officer	Mrs. M. Hay.
Telephone	Ashington 2287/3442
Offices of the P.H. Inspector	29, Bridge Street, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 3892

Area in Acres	2,221
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1968	14,510
One Penny Rate Produces	£2,000
Rateable Value	£490,434
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1968)	4,400
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority	1,504

-1-
VITAL STATISTICS.

(The figures in brackets are the figures for England and Wales)

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	174	93	81
Illegitimate	13	8	5
	<u>187</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>86</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 12.9 (16.9)
 Standard Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 0.99) 12.77
 Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate 0.76

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1

Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births 16 (14.3)

DEATHS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
224	113	111

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 15.4 (11.9)
 Standard Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.70) 10.78
 Ratio of local adjusted death rate to national rate 0.91
 Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion NIL
 Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births .. NIL (0.24)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 10.7 (18)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks of age per
 1,000 live births) 5.34 (12.4)

<u>Deaths of Infants under 1 week</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	1	1	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000
 live births) 5.34

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week
 per 1,000 total live and still births) 21

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS.

	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS										
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 & over		
B11	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1)	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(2)	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	1	2	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3)	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(4)	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
B19(5)	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(6)	M	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3	3	3	-
	F	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	4	-
B20	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B21	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B46(1)	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(2)	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
B46(3)	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B26	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
B27	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
B28	M	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	13	13	13	-
	F	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	17	-
B29	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AGE GROUPS (contd.)												
	Sex	Total All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS							
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	
												65- 75 & over
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	M 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
	F 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	12
B46(5) Other Disease of Circulatory System	M 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
	F 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	8
B31 Influenza	M -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B32 Pneumonia	M 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	F 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	M 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B33(2) Asthma	M 1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(6) Other Disease of Respiratory System	M 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B34 Peptic Ulcer	M 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	M 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B37 Cirrhosis of Liver	M 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B38 Nephritis and Nephrosis	M 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	M 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	M -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B46(10) Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	M -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
B43 Birth Injury, Difficult Labour Etc.	M 1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	M 1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE48 All other Accidents	M 4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F 6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1968.

CAUSES	Total Number	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart & Circulatory System	101	45.08
Malignant Neoplasms	36	16.07
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	31	13.8
TOTAL	168	74.95

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The following table gives details of the causes of death in the different age groups during the past year.

	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 week	2 weeks	3 weeks	Total under 4 wks.	1 - 3 months	4 - 6 months	7 - 9 months	10-11 months	Total under 1 year
Meningococcal Septicaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Respiratory Distress Syndrome	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past ten years.

	'59	'60	'61	'62	'63	'64	'65	'66	'67	'68
Infantile deaths under 1 yr.	6	4	6	5	4	6	4	1	4	2
Infantile Mortality Rate	27.03	18.43	25.33	18.94	12.66	24.79	17.78	4.46	20	10.7

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Ambulance Service.

This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station in Gas House Lane, where there are four ambulances, a Station Officer and eight Driver. The station is manned from 8.a.m. until midnight each day and, during the rest of the 24 hours, drivers are on stand-by duty. All vehicles can be controlled by radio from the Central Control at Wideopen.

Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

The full range of services is provided at the County Council's Clinic in Gas House Lane, where there are three Health Visitors.

The three firms of practitioners now make full use of the clinic building for maternity and child welfare work.

Meals on Wheels.

Figures supplied by the County Organiser of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service show that, during 1968 3,032 meals were delivered to old people in their own homes and a further 379 meals were provided at the Luncheon Club at Stobhill prior to its closure in June.

Chiropody for Old People.

This service continued to operate through the Old People's Welfare Committee.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

CASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

	Under 1 year	1 - 2 years	3 - 4 years	5 - 9 years	10 - 14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years	75 years and over	TOTAL
Dysentery	1	-	2	7	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	16
Measles	1	19	15	23	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	4
TOTAL	2	19	17	30	3	1	2	3	1	1	-	-	79

IMMUNISATION.

The record of immunisations completed is not, now available for Morpeth, alone, but refers to the whole of the Central Area of the County.

In the Central Area in 1968, 760 children completed a primary course of triple antigen, while a further 86 completed a course of diphtheria/tetanus injections.

In addition, 196 older children, not protected in infancy against tetanus, received a primary course of treatment with tetanus vaccine alone.

Re-inforcing injections against diphtheria were given to 2,176 children, against whooping cough to 879 children and against tetanus to 2,087 children.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation.

The number of children who completed a primary course was 823. The number of children who received a 'booster' dose during the year was 1,776.

Measles Vaccination.

The number of children who were vaccinated against measles was 1,096.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1968.

	New Cases					Deaths				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Tot.	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Tot.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24 years	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 34 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 44 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 54 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 64 years	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 - 74 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75 years & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths attributed to any form of the disease.

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis in Morpeth.

NIL

The corresponding rate for England and Wales.

0.030 per 1,000

Death rate from non-respiratory tuberculosis in Morpeth.

NIL

The corresponding rate for England and Wales

0.013 per 1,000

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

The Registrar-General's figures have been used in calculating the death-rates given below.

Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus.

Death rate in Morpeth0.55 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales0.593 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All other sites.

Death rate in Morpeth1.9 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales.....1.723 per 1,000

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Death rate in Morpeth2.47 per 1,000

Death rate in England and Wales2.316 per 1,000

Annual Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

WATER:

The Borough is supplied with drinking water by Tynemouth Corporation Water Undertaking.

The supply and pressure was found to be satisfactory throughout the year. Thirty-five samples of water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and the results of the examinations are shown below. The new service reservoir at Tranwell to augment the water supply to Coopies Lane Industrial site was completed and put into service during the year.

Samples and results:

Ref. No.	Location	Date of Collection	Date to Lab.	Probable No. of B. Coli per 100 ml.	B.Coli Type 1.	Code
1.	The Pastures	24.1.68	24.1.68	0	0	S
2.	Holly Avenue	"	"	0	0	S
3.	Loansdean	"	"	0	0	S
4.	Oldgate	"	"	0	0	S
5.	Pottery Bank	8.2.68	8.2.68	0	0	S
6.	Bridge Street	"	"	0	0	S
7.	Lowford	"	"	0	0	S
8.	Castle Square	"	"	0	0	S
9.	Abbots Way	8.4.68	8.4.68	3	0	U
10.	Eleventh Avenue	"	"	0	0	S
11.	Kylins	"	"	0	0	S
12.	The Pastures	"	"	0	0	S
13.	Abbots Way	16.4.68	16.4.68	0	0	S
14.	Abbey Meadows	"	"	0	0	S
15.	West Park	"	"	0	0	S
16.	Sun. Inn	"	"	0	0	S
17.	McGills Yard	14.5.68	14.5.68	0	0	S
18.	Armstrong Terrace	"	"	0	0	S
19.	Sanderson Gardens	"	"	0	0	S
20.	Civil Defence H.Q.	"	"	0	0	S
21.	Thorp Avenue	12.6.68	12.6.68	0	0	S
22.	Fulbeck	"	"	0	0	S
23.	Lowford	"	"	1	0	S
24.	St. Mary's Field	24.6.68	24.6.68	0	0	S
25.	Salisbury Street	"	"	0	0	S
26.	Grandstand	"	"	0	0	S
27.	Lowford	"	"	0	0	S
28.	Low Stanners	29.7.68	29.7.68	0	0	S
29.	Bridge Street	"	"	0	0	S
30.	Town Hall	"	"	0	0	S
31.	Green Lane	12.8.68	12.8.68	0	0	S
32.	Wellway	"	"	0	0	S
33.	East Mill (spring)	"	"	180+	0	U
34.	Jubilee Well	"	"	180+	0	U
35.	East Mill (spring)	5.9.68	5.9.68	180+	0	U

S = satisfactory. U = unsatisfactory.

Samples 33, 34 and 35 were taken to check the quality of this 'free gratis' supply after observing the ebb and flow of the water in conjunction with rainfall. The results of the examination confirmed the suspected poor quality of the water and steps were taken to deal with it.

Two samples of mains water were sent to the Public Analyst to check for lead content. The Analysts reports were as follows:

	Lead content parts per million.	Ph value
Sample 1. 24.6.68	less than 0.02	7.4.
Sample 2. 6.12.68	less than 0.02	7.8.

Both samples were satisfactory.

There is one dwelling house in the Borough supplied from an external standpipe and one house with a well supply. The former is expected to be dealt with in the near future by combining it with the adjoining house which has an internal supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:

The year under review saw continued expansion of the drainage and sewerage systems of the Borough as a result of the vigorous growth of the town. The inevitable increase in the flow of sewage continued to impose heavy demands upon the purification works. However, the enlargement and improvements to the works is making good progress and should soon be in service.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL AND STREET CLEANING:

The collection and disposal of domestic and trade refuse is carried out by direct labour and of course as the township grows so does the volume of refuse to be disposed of. Changing progressive living conditions and continuing rapid growth of the packaging of merchandise in non-returnable materials has greatly added to the bulk of refuse. In order to conserve the life of the tipping ground at Quarry Woods as much combustible waste as possible is isolated from the refuse and burned at the tip, sometimes resulting in the production of smoke and fumes and which being free to the natural elements cannot be controlled. It is fortunate that the tipping site is well removed from the town and well screened by natural woodland which somewhat checks the drift of the products of the combustion to the town.

The town's growth has of course brought with it the added problem of many more miles of streets to be swept. Despite this, however, this vital service to the community has been well-maintained. It is most disappointing however to find that refuse of various kinds is still seen dumped in odd corners and secluded spots by some thoughtless people, adding to the heavy burden already placed upon the street cleansing service, requiring special visits to remove the refuse. On request ratepayers of the Borough may have unwanted household articles collected and disposed of.

The time is still looked forward to when an up-to-date, method of disposal such as pulverisation is adopted.

Litter continues to be a problem despite all the exhortations of local authorities, press and television, and it is a sad fact that we as a nation after having campaigned for and demanded that foodstuffs and other consumer goods should be wrapped to keep them clean and fresh, choose to ignore the fact that decomposing litter and rubbish can be a serious health hazard by harbouring germs and flying insects.

Regrettably, the Litter Act does not appear to have proved as successful a deterrent as was thought it would be.

RIVERS (PREVENTION OF POLLUTION ACT) 1956-1961

Rivers and Streams:

During the year, several inspections were made of the river, and other streams running through the Borough. No serious health hazards were found, but it may be mentioned that the river banks in the vicinity of the Newmarket received the regular quota of litter and waste food. This, it is thought

to be largely due to feeding of the Mallard ducks - a commendable action spoiled by the somewhat thoughtless throwing down of superfluous food, and wrappings despite the fact that the area is well provided with litter receptacles. Though not a serious pollutant, this waste matter does provide food for rodents and of course mars the natural beauty of the riverside.

Camping Sites and other recreational facilities:

There are no camping sites in the Borough, but such facilities are within easy reach of the Borough. However, Morpeth offers ample other recreational facilities and emphasis is placed on sporting activities, the Council having provided football and rugby fields, and a stadium for field events, there are also bowling greens, tennis courts, putting greens, miniature golf and a paddling pool and play-pit for children. There is boating on the river Wansbeck and each year a Regatta is held on the river by a local organisation. There are many pleasant walks to be enjoyed in all parts of the Borough and the renowned beautiful Carlisle Park, Castle Banks and High Stanners provides the superlative conditions in which one can relax. An indoor swimming pool is under construction and is expected to be open to the public early in 1969.

COMPLAINTS:

During the year 132 complaints were received all of which were dealt with and involved a total of 204 visits. The following list shows the nuisances and defects remedied:-

Chimney stacks repaired:	2
Dampness remedied:	5
Drains repaired:	6
Drains (obstructions cleared):	4
Doors repaired:	3
Eavesgutters renewed:	3
Eavesgutters cleansed:	8
Floors repaired:	1
Roofs repaired:	6
Windows repaired:	1
Wallplaster renewed:	3
Water closets repaired:	2
Walls re-pointed:	4
Yard surfaces repaired:	1

Other inspections carried out under Public Health Acts:

Aged and infirm persons enquiries:	2
Communal yards, courts and passages:	6
Infectious disease:	7
Infestations:	81
Offensive accumulations:	10
Sanitary conveniences:	14
Places of public entertainment:	4
Refuse disposal sites:	9
Watercourses:	11
Sewage disposal works:	7
Unsatisfactorily kept houses:	20
Demolition sites:	7
Keeping of animals:	3
Drainage works:	75

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956:

Only one incident of a minor emission of grit from a factory chimney was noted and investigated and following discussions with the firm concerned a grit arrestor was fitted. No other complaints were received during the year.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960:

Three complaints of vibration and noise were investigated during the year. Two were caused by a stationary diesel engine and one from a domestic source. Although the Railway Authority as a Statutory body are immune from the Act, they were anxious to do all they could to comply with the spirit of the act and took

steps to minimise the noise.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There is only one licensed pet shop in the Borough, to which regular inspections were made to ensure compliance with regulations. No contraventions were observed or reported.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951:

At the end of the year there was only one premises on the register at which rag flock was stored. They were found generally satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949:

As in past years, destruction and control of rats and mice was fully maintained. There were no major infestations encountered during the year. Poison baits are the main line of attack in this work except on the refuse tip where lethal gas, and other direct methods are used.

The sewerage system was given the twice yearly treatment as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Pests Division. Takes of bait were very light, indicating that the sewers were not badly infested.

It was again a pleasure to have student public health inspectors from the Charles Trevelyan Technical College, Newcastle upon Tyne, come to Morpeth for their practical training in sewer treatments, the methods employed in Morpeth being suited to their studies.

The following table shows some details of work done other than sewers:-

Class of property	Inspections and Surveys	Treatments	
		Rats	Mice
Agricultural	7	1	-
Business	258	1	1
Council	161	7	7
Dwellings	477	51	8
Refuse sites	106	Continuous	
Rivers and Streams	143	4	-
Sewage works	56	1	-
Totals:	1208	68	18

Destruction of Moles:

Moles are dealt with by a specialist in this work engaged by the Council. Several visits were made during the year to recognised trouble spots by the Public Health Department and when moles were found, the mole-catcher was informed. He himself also made independent visits as a check on these places and for any other new outbreaks.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1961

Destruction of Feral Pigeons:

Destruction of feral pigeons is carried out by the rodent operator in co-operation with the Police Authority.

During the year, 427 birds were disposed of and with rodents, sustained application is necessary to keep them under control. The rodent operator has met with several hostile persons during the course of this branch of his work and has had to refer such people to the Police Authority. It should be made clear to the general public that stray pigeons are now classified as

a nuisance, and powers given to local authorities to dispose of them.

Verminous Premises:

During the year 41 complaints of insect pests were dealt with and the following table shows the species encountered.

Species	Type of property affected.			
	Council	Private	Business	Other
Cockroach	17	-	-	-
Earwig	-	1	-	-
Flies	1	-	-	-
Mice &	-	1	-	-
Silverfish	2	-	-	-
Steam fly	-	1	-	-
Woodworm	1	-	-	-
Wasps	4	11	1	1
Totals:	25	14	1	1

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963:

There is only one licenced premises in the Borough at which dogs are cared for. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that certain standards relating to cleanliness, lighting, heating, ventilation, food and water supply are maintained, and that means of isolation is provided for the case of sick animals.

The premises were inspected during the year and no contraventions were found.

SCHOOLS:

Meal preparing kitchens and sanitary conveniences in schools in the Borough were inspected and found satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

At the end of 1968, there were 207 premises employing 1,136 persons on the Borough register. There were 6 new registrations and 198 inspections were carried out during the year.

The following table shows the analysis of registered premises according to class:-

Class	No. on Register	No. of persons employed	M.	F.
Catering (open to the public)	26	206	50	156
Canteens	1	3	-	3
Fuel depots	1	3	3	-
Offices	51	219	94	125

Table cont/d.

Class	No. on Register	No. of persons employed	M.	F.
Shops (retail)	127	691	223	468
Shops (wholesale) & Warehouses	1	14	11	3
Totals	207	1136	381	755

Contraventions under the Act were as follows:

Section	Subject Matter	Number of contraventions
4.	Cleanliness	9
5.	Overcrowding	-
6.	Temperature	5
7.	Ventilation	2
8.	Lighting	6
9.	Sanitary accommodation	3
10.	Washing facilities	4
11.	Drinking water	1
12.	Clothing accommodation	-
13.	Sitting facilities	-
14.	Seats (sedentary workers)	-
15.	Meals facilities	-
16.	Floors, stairs and passages	5
17.	Fencing exposed machinery	6
18.	Protection of young persons (dangerous machines)	-
19.	Training of young persons (dangerous machines)	-
23.	Prohibition of heavy work	-
24.	First aid equipment	3
50.	Information to employees	5

Contraventions when found are taken up with owners, occupiers and employers and employees, as appropriate, followed up by informal notice in the first instance. This approach has to date been sufficient to obtain compliance and prosecutions not necessary.

There were three accidents reported and investigated and advice given where required. There were no fatal accidents. The following table shows some statistics relating to reported accidents.

[illegible]

Table cont/d.

	No. of inspections	No. of defect or contraventions	No. of informal notices served.	Defects remedied by informal action	No. of statutory notices served.	Defects remedied by statutory action	Legal proceedings.	REMARKS
School kitchens	11	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Travelling shops etc	53	10	10	9	-	-	-	one outstanding at end of year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There were 41 factory premises on the Borough register at the close of the year of which 40 were those where power-driven machinery was used.

There were also three outworkers premises on the register and five sites where construction works were in operation and where section 7 of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences is enforceable by the Local Authority.

The following tables give some statistics of work done under the Act:-

Premises	No. on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Notices	Prosecutions
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are enforced by the L.A.	1	2	-	-
2. Factories not included in 1, in which section 7 is enforced by L.A.	40	19	1	-
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	5	1	-	-
Total:-	46	22	1	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were				Prosecut.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for the sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-workers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	5	5	-	1	-

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1968.

Houses completed during the year:

a) By Local Authority	Nil
b) By any other Housing Authority	Nil
c) By private persons	81

Closing and Demolition:

1. Houses demolished in Clearance areas:	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance areas:	Nil
3. Houses closed, not demolished:	2
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above:	Nil

Repairs:

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or P.H. Acts:

5. By informal action	4
6. By owners following statutory notice:	Nil
7. By Local Authority in default of owners:	Nil
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Houses patched:

9. Houses in Clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation:	Nil
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Clearance Progress:

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year:	Nil
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS:

A. Discretionary Grants:

No. of separate
houses

1. Applications submitted to Local Authority

15

2. Applications rejected:	Nil
3. Applications approved:	15
4. Approximate average grant approved per house:	£207.
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in the area since inception of scheme	173

B. <u>Standard Grants:</u>	<u>During the year</u>	<u>Total to date</u>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made:	13	117 + 6 L.A.
2. Number of houses so provided with:-		
a) Bath or shower	8	82 + 3 L.A.
b) Wash-hand basin	8	79 + 3 L.A.
c) Hot water supply	11	86 + 3 L.A.
d) Water closet	12	97 + 6 L.A.
e) Food store	8	58 + 3 L.A.

Slum Clearance:

Action on sub-standard houses was confined to individual unfit dwellings by closing orders, and the service of notices requiring works to be done, During the year one closing order was made by the Council.

The number of families awaiting rehousing from sub-standard actioned houses was two and two families were rehoused during the year.

Improvement Areas:

During the year a start was made on surveys of areas thought suitable for improvement, but this was brought to a halt due to the Assistant Public Health Inspector leaving the service of the Council. As soon as circumstances allow this work will be resumed.

Rent Act, 1957:

No applications were received during the year for Certificate of Disrepair.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply:

Licensing of dealers in Untreated Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk and sampling of milk is carried out by the County Health Department. At the end of the year there were 15 milk dealers in the Borough.

Twenty-one samples of milk were taken during the year and the following table shows the results of examinations.

Designation	Number of Samples	Test Result					
		Passed			Failed		
		M.B.	Phos.	Bio.	M.B.	PHos.	Bio.
Untreated	7	5	-	-	2	-	-
Pasteurised	14	14	14	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Ice-cream:

There were 37 premises registered for the storage or sale of ice-cream. Premises conform to the requirements of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations and 13 inspections of premises and storage equipment were carried out and temperature tests made of conservators.

Four samples were taken for the Methylene Blue decolourisation test. All were classified grade 1 - satisfactory.

Public Abattoir:

The abattoir continued to function satisfactorily during the year, with no troubles arising regarding mechanical failures or labour. Some structural repairs were necessary to secure continued compliance with the Slaughterhouses Hygiene Regulations.

The Council employs two full-time slaughtermen and a birage attendant who also gives general assistance to the slaughtermen and is responsible for the cleaning of the abattoir.

The following table shows the comparative numbers of animals slaughtered at the abattoir for the years 1967 and 1968.

Month	1967					1968				
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Total
Jan.	147	1044	135	6	1332	164	706	68	11	94
Feb.	119	589	84	8	800	153	469	96	18	73
Mar.	134	384	82	11	611	98	365	78	12	55
Apr.	117	383	77	12	589	107	427	88	12	63
May.	143	461	131	6	741	115	485	73	7	68
June.	120	560	78	3	761	88	537	47	8	68
July.	125	814	61	6	1006	144	799	47	10	100
Aug.	164	1005	89	16	1274	131	713	67	14	92
Sept.	161	1146	76	25	1408	154	715	77	14	96
Oct.	188	1150	105	18	1461	158	856	78	30	112
Nov.	208	974	81	13	1276	146	787	77	20	103
Dec.	110	543	168	6	827	129	659	153	24	96
Grand Totals	1736	9053	1167	130	12086	1587	7518	949	180	1023

A gut preparing service is provided for at the abattoir by a specialist firm, but the scraping and final processing is done at their premises in Newcastle upon Tyne. Manure and other waste is removed daily from the abattoir and collection of condemned meat, viscera and offals twice weekly by a by-products firm after staining with a special green dye, in accordance with the Meat Staining Regulations.

Hides and skins are also collected twice weekly.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1955.

Slaughtermens Licences

Seven slaughtermen's licences were renewed in 1968. No offences or contraventions of licence were noted or reported.

Meat Inspection:

Carcases, viscera and offall were inspected and all carcases stamped in accordance with the Meat Insepction Regulations. The following table shows the items rejected in whole or in part as unfit for human consumption:-

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	1436	151	180	7518	949
Number inspected	1436	151	180	7518	949
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	10	36	4
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	490	89	3	916	112
Percentage of no. affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci.	34.2%	59.6%	7.2%	12.6%	12.2%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-	6
Percentage of no. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.63%
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>					
Carcases, some part or organ of which was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted for treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-

Inspection of other Foods:

The following table shows the foodstuffs inspected, rejected and surrendered for destruction:-

Commodity		Weight	
		lbs.	ozs.
Beef	Bone taint	59	0
Beverages	Damaged containers	12	0
Cheese	Mould	7	10
Cereals	Mould	11	0
Fish	Failure of freezing unit	148	10
Flour	Damaged packets	84	0
Fruit	Blown and damaged tins	73	8

Commodity		Weight	
		lbs.	ozs.
Glucose	Damaged packets	1	0
H am (cooked)	Decomposition	13	8
Lard	Rancid	2	0
Meat	Blown tins	179	0
Milk	Blown and leaking tins	101	0
Pastry	Failure of freezing unit	15	0
Pies	Failure of freezing unit	13	2
Sugar	Damaged packets	10	0
Soups	Blown tins	222	10 ³ / ₄
Souffles	Failure of freezing unit	5	7
Savouries	Failure of freezing unit	21	4 ¹ / ₂
Tomatoes	Blown tins	2	7
Vegetables	Failure of freezing unit	60	4
Total weight		1,042	7 ¹ / ₄

In addition to the above, the following commodities were inspected, rejected and surrendered for disposal following damage and contamination by flood water in September.

3 cwts. butter	384 bottles ketchup
144 lbs. lard	142 bottles salad cream
336 lbs. margarine	144 jars sandwich spread
24 lbs. cooking fat	2 doz. cartons yogurt
41 lbs. 10 ozs. Cheese	3 pints cream
446 doz. eggs	6 jars cream
20 bottles assorted table waters.	5 gallons milk
960 lbs. preserves	15 gallons sauterne wine.
36 quarts vinegar	10 gallons sherry
96 bottles sauce	50 doz. soft drinks.

Offences under Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

During the year, there were ten complaints received regarding foodstuffs. All were fully investigated and dealt with. One case led to legal proceedings which was successful.

Food Premises, Food Hygiene and Educational Activities:

Hygiene of food premises and travelling shops was given maximum attention during the year and the standard developed over the years since the introduction of Regulations shows continuing improvement. Many inspections were made of all kinds of premises and where contraventions were found, generally of a minor nature, advice and cautions had the desired effect. Frequent changes in staff was again found to be a major factor in temporary lapses of good hygienic practices. Informal talks and instruction to new members of staff, plus the use of posters and leaflets dealing with food hygiene, formed the pattern of the Clean Food Campaign operated in the Borough. On the spot talks and discussions though a time consuming matter is however considered very worthwhile and inspection of food premises continues to be a duty of great importance to check any deterioration in good hygiene and to seek for still higher standards for the future.

At the end of the year there were on the register 23 premises where food was preserved.

The total number of premises at which food is stored, prepared or sold was 126 made up as follows:

Main Classification	Number
Boarding houses	3
Butchers	11
Bakehouses	4
Confectioners	16
Cafes , Canteens, Restaurants, Snack bars	12
Chemists	5
Cooked meats	3
Fruit and greengrocery	11
Fried fish	4
Fresh fish	1
Grocers	15
General Dealers	12
Hotels and licensed premises	21
Milk stores	1
School kitchens	8

